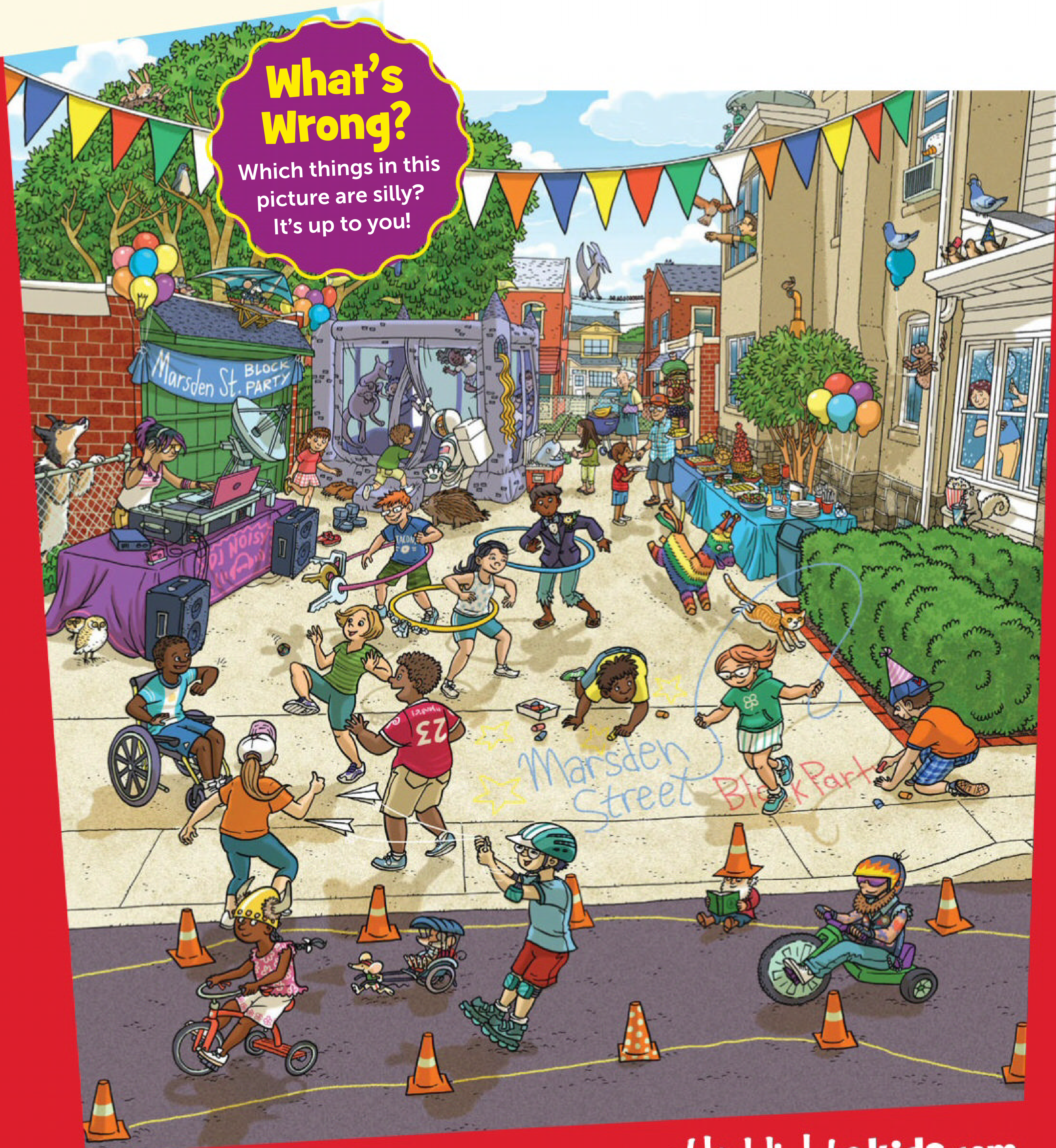


Visit our website! Highlightskids.com

FIND GAMES AND JOKES ON HIGHLIGHTSKIDS.COM!

AUGUST 2020
Highlights.com

Highlights

FUN with a Purpose

DIVE In!

Weird History!
Page 36

GIANT Trolls
Page 22

Fun This Month

Ice-Pop Puzzler

Figure out which ice pop should go in place of each question mark so that each column and row contains all four ice pops.



Answer on page 38.

Highlights kids

Fantastical Fun

Would you rather ride a . . .

Unicorn 63%

Dragon 37%

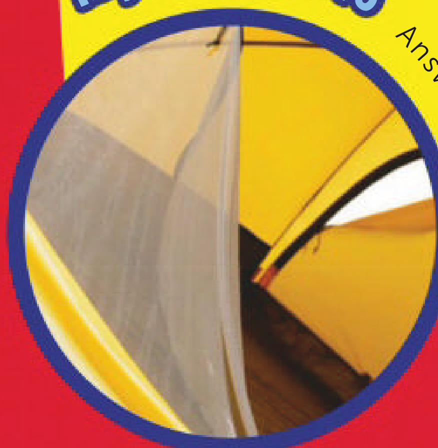
Head to HighlightsKids.com to take this month's poll.

Tongue Twister

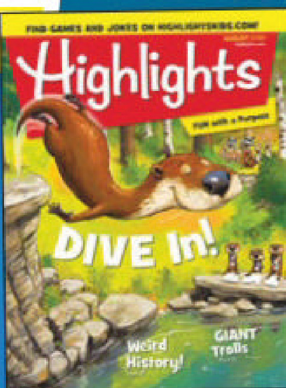
Will's whale wears wool.



Mystery Photo



Answer on page 38.



Find the Pictures

Can you find each of these 11 pictures at another place in this magazine?



August 1 is National Mustard Day!

The National Mustard Museum in Middleton, Wisconsin, has more than 6,090 mustards from all 50 states and more than 70 countries.

Highlights for Children

AUGUST 2020 • VOLUME 75 • NUMBER 8 • ISSUE NO. 826

Founded in 1946 by Garry C. Myers, Ph.D., and Caroline Clark Myers

Editorial Offices: 803 Church Street, Honesdale, PA 18431-1895.
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To submit manuscripts, go to Highlights.submittable.com.
(Writers younger than 16: please use the postal address above.)

Business Offices: 1800 Watermark Drive, P.O. Box 269, Columbus, OH 43216-0269.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN is published monthly.

Cover price: $5.99

ISSN 0018-165X (print); ISSN 2330-6920 (online)

Printed by LSC Communications, Danville, KY.

Designed for home and classroom use.

Periodical postage paid at Columbus, Ohio; Toronto, Ontario; and at additional mailing offices.

U.S. Postmaster: Send address changes to Highlights for Children, P.O. Box 6038, Harlan, IA 51593-1538. **Canada Post:** Publications Mail Agreement No. 40065670. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to P.O. Box 99 Stn. Main, Milton, ON L9T 9Z9.















HL0820_182736

Dear Reader

By Christine French Cully
Editor in Chief



What Do *You* Love to Do?

Imagine taking a walk in the woods, turning a corner, and suddenly finding a giant troll along the path! That's an experience many kids around the world can have, thanks to artist **Thomas Dambo**. You can read about him and see photos of his trolls in "The Troll Maker" (pages 22–27).



I can't decide what I like best about this story. Is it the magnificent trolls themselves? Is it that all the trolls are made from recycled materials? Or is it that the troll maker's love of creating art from discarded items began when he was a kid? I am always drawn to stories about adults who find happiness doing what they loved to do as kids. Maybe that's because that's my story too. As a kid I was always reading and writing—and that's what I get to do today at *Highlights*.

Do you have a hobby or an interest that you love so much you could do it forever? I hope you'll write and tell me about it. Who knows? It just might become something that gives you joy for the rest of your life—and helps you give joy to others. That's how it worked for Thomas Dambo.

Your friend,

Christine

Write to me!
Christine@Highlights.com

This magazine of wholesome fun is dedicated to helping children grow in basic **skills** and **knowledge,** in **creativeness,** in ability to **think** and **reason,** in **sensitivity** to others, in high **ideals** and worthy ways of living—for **children are the world's most important people.**

August

VOLUME 75 • NUMBER 8 • ISSUE NO. 826

Dear Highlights,

How can I be less Picky about everything? —Amiyah, Virginia

We hope these tips help, Amiyah. Good luck!

1. Decide to have the attitude that it can be fun to try new things.
2. Tell yourself that it's not a big deal if you don't like something.
3. Expand your world! You may even discover new favorites.



SHINE ON! August 7 is National Lighthouse Day.











Beware of Trolls!
Artist Thomas Dambo makes them from recyclable materials.









Lee Fregeau
Age 9 • Maryland

Up from a Nap

By Kristin Walker
Art by Matt Kaufenberg

I'm feeling kind of blue right now,
My belly's burning red.
My eyes have got a yellow tint,
There's orange on my head.
My toes are growing purple nails,
My tongue is turning green.
Chameleons should never sleep
On rainbow jelly beans.

The Timbertoes

By Rich Wallace • Art by Ron Zalme

SPLASH!

Mabel dived deep.

W-o-o-o-w!

Big fish!

This big?

Bigger!

Like this?

I guess he's done swimming for the day!

Looking Out for



Violet sat on the gym floor, waiting for her turn to do cartwheels. She scowled at her little sister, Tilly, across the room. This was Tilly's first week at gymnastics. Violet had done gymnastics for the past two years. Why couldn't Tilly find her own thing to do?

It was the same at home. Tilly followed Violet everywhere.

It was the same at home. Tilly followed Violet everywhere. When Violet practiced somersaults, Tilly tumbled across the family room too.

"Violet, you're up!" called Violet's instructor, Miss Taylor. Violet jogged to the mats. She pushed off with her legs and straightened her arms. She spun around like a pinwheel. She did one, two, three cartwheels.

Miss Taylor clapped. "Perfect!"

Violet noticed that Tilly had stepped away from the younger group to watch Violet's cartwheels.

"Matilda!" called Tilly's instructor, Miss Brooke, from across the room. Tilly's full name was Matilda, but everyone called her Tilly. Mom had told Miss Brooke about that, but Miss Brooke must have forgotten.

Tilly didn't move.

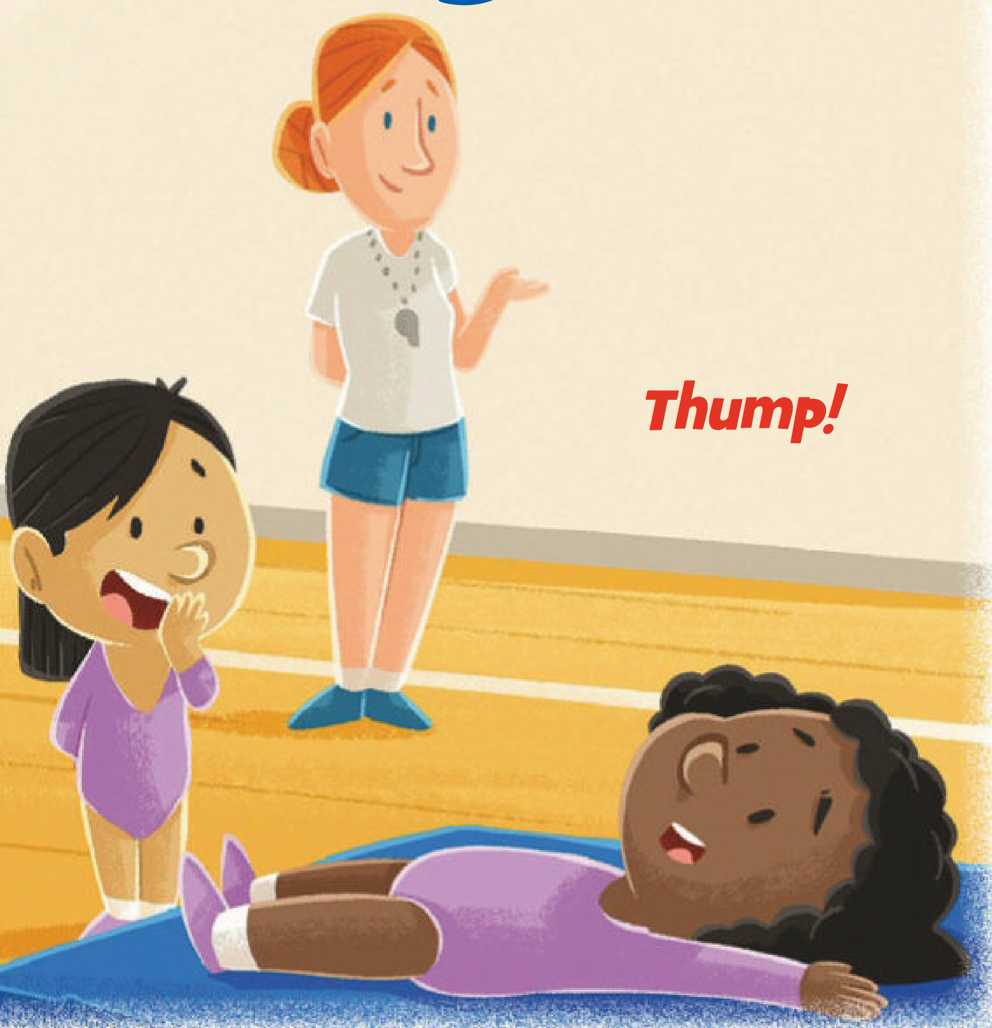
"Matilda!" called Miss Brooke again.

Tilly didn't seem to hear.

"Matilda!" called Miss Brooke for the third time.

Tilly

By Erin Guendelsberger
Art by Maarten Lenoir



Tilly looked up suddenly. "Oh!" she said. "That's my name."

Kids laughed as she ran back to her group. Tilly's face turned bright red.

Miss Brooke put an arm around her. "Your turn to do somersaults, Matilda."

Tilly walked to the mat, her face still as red as a tomato. She crouched down to start a somersault. When she rolled, though, she didn't tuck her legs. She flopped flat on the mat with a thump. Kids laughed in surprise at the noise.

Tilly stood, said something to Miss Brooke, and ran toward the restroom. She was gone from the gym, as Violet had wanted. But it didn't feel right.

After telling Miss Taylor where she was going, Violet hurried to the restroom. She found Tilly crying. Seeing Violet, Tilly cried harder.

Violet put an arm around her sister.

Tilly sniffed. "I don't want to do gymnastics anymore." She wiped away tears with the back of her hand.

This was Violet's chance. If she said nothing to her sister, Tilly might decide to quit for good. But Violet knew how excited Tilly had been about joining gymnastics. So Violet said, "But you're better at somersaults than I am."

"No, I'm not," Tilly said. "I flopped."

"OK, so your first somersault on your first day of gymnastics didn't go right," Violet said. "On *my* first day, I put my leotard on backward."

Tilly smiled a little. "Really?"

"Really," said Violet. "Maybe give it another try?"

Tilly smiled a little more. "OK."

Violet and Tilly walked back into the gym together.

And at the end of practice, Violet reminded Miss Brooke, "My sister goes by Tilly."



Goofus and Gallant

There's some of Goofus and Gallant in us all.
When the Gallant shines through, we show our best self.









YOUR Goofus and Gallant Moments

"I felt like Goofus when I didn't get off my tablet when my mom told me to."
Lucas, Age 8, California

"I felt like Gallant when I cleaned up a mess of Legos even though I wasn't playing with them."
Daphne, Age 9, Washington

Tell us when *you've* felt like Goofus or Gallant! Visit HighlightsKids.com or write to

Highlights
Goofus and Gallant Moments
803 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

Art by Leslie Harrington.

What's on Your Mind?

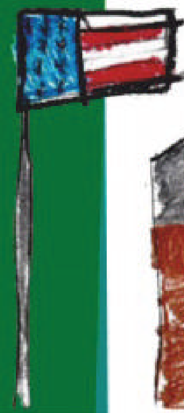
We've all been feeling a jumble of emotions because of the effects COVID-19 has had on our lives. However you are feeling, you are not alone! Here are a few ways some of you have expressed yourselves. Keep sharing, talking with loved ones, and taking good care of yourselves.

I used to be really responsible. But when COVID-19 rolled out, I got really stressed and found it hard to be kind.

Wyatt
Age 12 • Hawai'i

I just turned six. I was going to have an America's Got Talent party, but my party was canceled because of the corona shutdown. I miss everyone.

Evelyn
Age 6 • Florida





Reese Haskell
Age 9 • Massachusetts

I always miss my friends on weekends, and this is like an extra-long weekend.

Abby
Colorado

I hope you are safe and healthy during this pandemic period.

James

Together

Times can be rough.
We just gotta be tough.
But we can't be tough alone.
At least call someone on the phone.
Wear a smile.
It might take a while,
But we'll do it together.

Addie Pence
Age 10 • Wisconsin



Corona Times
Rubi
Age 11 • Virginia

Hope

Even though the world is shut down,
in every city and every town,
we will hold on to hope.
There is no time to mope.
We must be as strong as we can,
just like every other child, woman,
and man.
And, hopefully soon, things will
get better,
and we might even find some
toilet paper.

Sophie Tanner
Age 13 • South Dakota



My Sign to Thank Helpers
Sanvi
Age 9 • Rhode Island

Stuck at Home

Out of school—
That's so cool!
Or so I thought,
But now Mom rules.
I hear her tone
And give a moan . . .
I'm so bored being
Stuck at home!

Truman Cooper
Age 6 • California

For You and Your Family

You and your parents can find tips, ideas, and things to do on HighlightsKids.com, on our YouTube channels, and in the "Highlights@Home" segments on Highlights.com. Don't miss "Arizona's Amazingly Awesome Stuck-at-Home Survival Guide." And write to us anytime you'd like!

MY SCI

A Skeleton's Story

By Sara Matson

On the beach or in a souvenir shop, you might see fragile, bleached sand dollars like the ones shown here. They're skeletons!

The sand dollar is an animal—a kind of sea urchin that lives on the ocean floor. When it's alive, it's covered in skin and short spines that make it look fuzzy and gray, brown, or purple. After it dies, its skeleton tells us something about its life.

In the mouth, powerful jaws crunched grains of sand to eat the algae and microscopic animals on them. In the skeleton, pieces of the jaws may rattle around.

Grooves on its underside moved food to the mouth on a string of mucus.

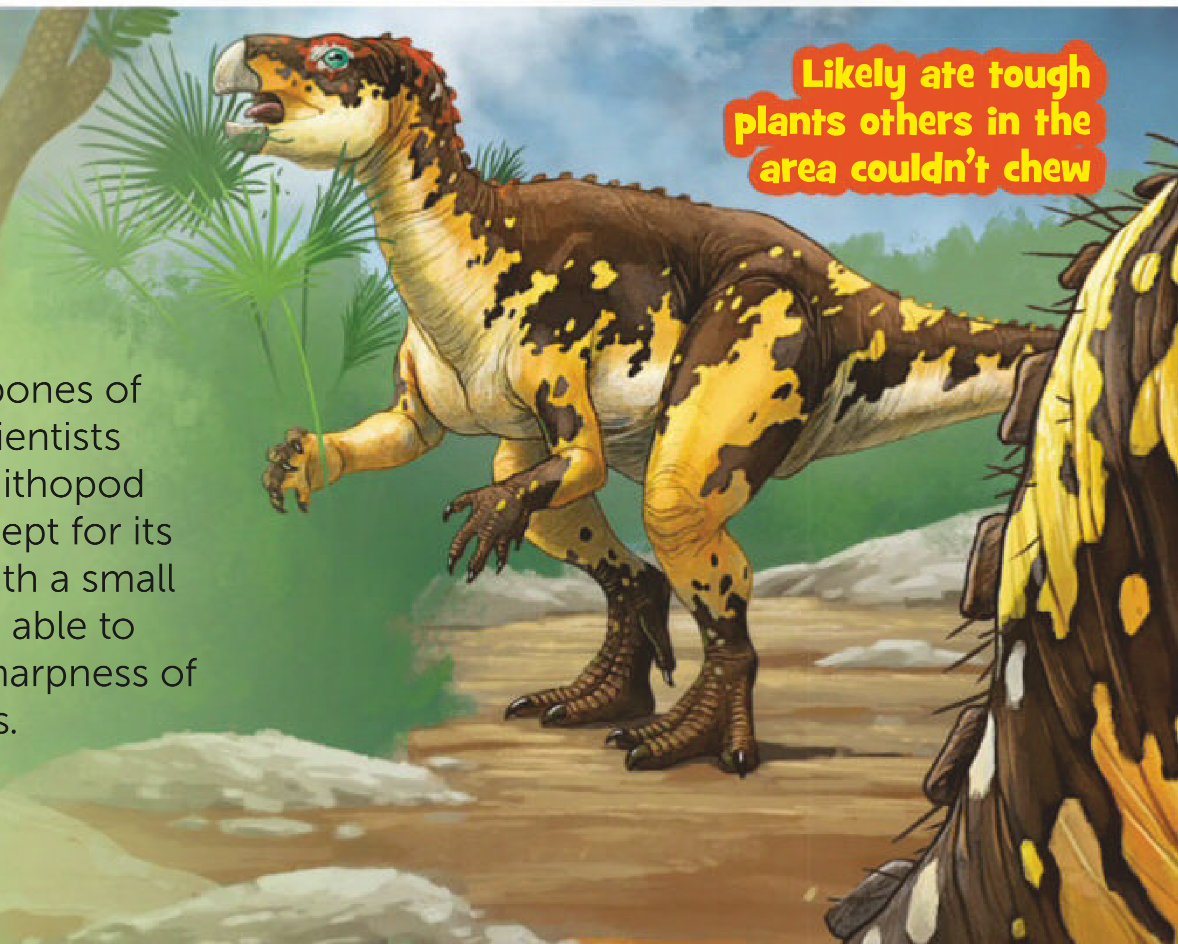
A fuzzy-looking sand dollar is likely still living. Leave it alone, or return it to its sea home.

By Dougal Dixon • Art by Robert Squier

Matheronodon

MATH-er-ON-oh-don
"Matheron tooth" (named after 19th-century French paleontologist Philippe Matheron)

Matheronodon was identified from fossil bones of just an upper jaw and teeth. They show scientists that *Matheronodon* was a plant-eating ornithopod that looked something like *Iguanodon* except for its short face. Its jaws were big and strong, with a small number of huge teeth. It would have been able to slice through very tough plants with the sharpness of a chisel and the shearing action of scissors.



Likely ate tough plants others in the area couldn't chew



Why and how does hair grow?

Micah Hillman
Age 8 • Alabama

Hair grows because tiny, tube-like organs in the skin's deepest layer keep making more of it. There are about 100,000 of these organs, or follicles, on your head alone.

At the base of each tube, cells keep dividing and making new cells. Newer cells push up older ones, which fill with flexible proteins called keratins and with a pigment called melanin (which gives hair its color).

The cells bind together, hardening into fiber strands. By the time a strand reaches above your scalp, its cells have been dead for weeks.

Every few years, a follicle takes a break. It withers. Weeks or months later, it wakes up, and the cycle starts again.





HOW LONG:
Likely 16 feet



WHAT IT ATE:
Tough plants, possibly palm leaves



WHERE:
France



WHEN:
73 million years ago

252	201	145	66	Present
Triassic	Jurassic	Cretaceous	Cenozoic	

Hidden Pictures

Want a challenge?
Fold back page 15 to hide the picture clues.

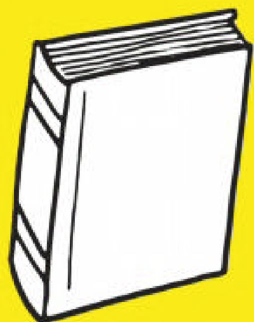
Long-Jump Leapers

By Pat Lewis



In this big picture, find the book, umbrella, party hat, comb, slice of cake, canoe, broccoli, boomerang, cupcake, pickax, saucepan, domino, musical note, fish, banana, and fishhook.

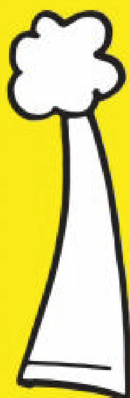
Picture Clues



book



umbrella





canoe



comb



party hat

slice of cake



broccoli



cupcake



boomerang



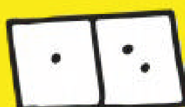
pickax



saucepan



musical note



domino



fish



banana



fishhook

BONUS

Can you also find the pencil, toothbrush, heart, and snake?

Answers on HighlightsKids.com.

JOKES



"Knock, knock."

"Who's there?"

"Cows."

"Cows who?"

"No they don't—they moo!"

Roman Troyer, Indiana

Milly: My brother must have a lot of phones.
Billy: Why do you say that?
Milly: He lives in Cali-phone-ia!

Zhao Zitong, China

Canvas: Hey, did you hear the joke about the artist?
Paint: No. Tell me.
Canvas: It was very a-muse-ing.

Ruthie Silvinson, California

A book never written: *Classical Instruments* by P. Anno.

Klara Rhudy, Texas

Sierra: Why did the owl become a comedian?
Ronan: I don't know. Why?
Sierra: Because he wanted to be a hoot.

Sierra Oglesby, Texas

Construction Worker #1: Do you want to hear a joke about construction?
Construction Worker #2: Yeah. What is it?
Construction Worker #1: I can't tell you yet. I'm still working on it.

Caelan Simon, Illinois

Make us laugh!

Send a joke or riddle, along with your name, age, and address, to

Highlights
803 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

Fruit Figures

By Matthew Ochrym

Each type of fruit represents a certain number. Look at the equations to figure out which number each fruit represents.

1 + 4 = [pear]

[pear] + [pear] = [lemon]

[pear] − [apple] = 2

[apple] + [orange] = [lemon]

BONUS! [apple] + [orange] + [pear] + [lemon] = ?

Answers on page 38.

Monster Care

A Guide for New Owners

By Bradford H. Robie
Art by Karl West

These handy tips will help you keep your monster happy and healthy.



Regular grooming will make your monster look and smell great.



To prevent yucky monster breath, brush your monster's teeth at least three times a week.



Baby monsters need four meals a day. But when your monster reaches its first birthday, one daily meal is usually enough.



Keep your monster's habitat clean and change the water frequently.



Choose appropriate toys for your monster.

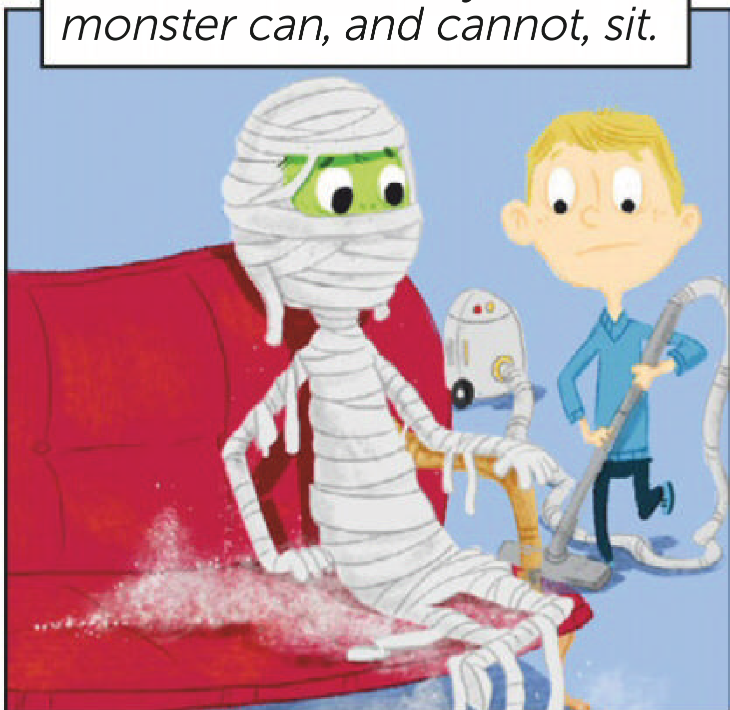
Your monster needs a quiet place to sleep, away from drafts and off the floor.



Give your monster the room it needs to play.



Set rules for where your monster can, and cannot, sit.



Have your monster's vision checked regularly.



Your monster will feel useful if you give it a job.



Your monster may need a helping hand from time to time.



Now that you know how to take care of your monster, have a howling-good time!







Beachy Creature Feet

1. From **craft foam**, draw and cut out creature-foot shapes for a pair of **flip-flops**. Make a slit in each shape to go around the toe strap.

2. Before gluing the shapes in place, try on the flip-flops. If necessary, trim the shapes. (If they're too long in front, it's hard to walk.)

3. Use **tacky glue** to attach the shapes to the insoles of the flip-flops. Add foam decorations. Let them dry. (Don't run in them!)



















Octopus Bottle Buddies

Crafts by Lisa Glover. Art by Mike Lowery.
Photos by Jim Filipski, Guy Cali Associates, Inc.

1. Draw an octopus shape on **craft foam**. Include two arms that connect in a loop above the head. Cut out the shape.
2. Draw and cut out foam details, such as a hat or a surfboard. Use **tacky glue** to attach them. Add **wiggle eyes**.
3. Slide the connected "arm loop" over the top of a **bottle**.



Shark Ball Toss

A Game for 2 or More Players

1. For each "shark," ask an adult to cut the bottom 2 inches off a **two-liter plastic bottle**. Use **sandpaper** to smooth the edge, or cover it with **tape**.
2. Paint the bottle with **acrylic paint**. Let it dry.
3. From **craft foam**, cut out fins, eyes, and teeth. Use **tacky glue** to attach them.

TO PLAY: Each player holds a "shark" by the cap end. Standing a few steps apart, players toss a **tennis ball** from shark to shark. How many times can you catch it in a row?

Our Gargantuan

The Milky Way is bigger and brighter than most other galaxies.

We live in a spectacular group of stars called the Milky Way galaxy. Every star you see belongs to the Milky Way. But our galaxy is so big that you can't even see most of it.

How many stars does our galaxy have? More than a hundred. More than a thousand. More than a million! In fact, the Milky Way has more than 100 billion (100,000,000,000) stars. If you counted one star every second for the rest of your life, you still couldn't count them all.

The Sun is one star in the Milky Way. It is the star that Earth goes around. The Sun and everything that goes around it are called the solar system. The solar system is big. But the galaxy is gargantuan.

How Big Is Our Galaxy?

If you were making a map of the Milky Way, you'd mark the Sun with a dot. Then you'd put Earth one inch from the Sun. On this map, Pluto would be 40 inches from the Sun.

But to show the whole Milky Way, you would need a sheet of paper bigger than the United States. In fact, your paper would have to stretch far beyond the Moon.

The Milky Way is a beautiful galaxy. By measuring how far different stars are, astronomers discovered that our galaxy has a spiral shape. If we could see

That means really big!

You are here

Galaxy spins this way

Giant black hole (not visible)

Stars and star clusters

Galaxy

By Ken Croswell, Ph.D.

Glowing gas clouds

Arms (mostly new stars)

it from the outside, it would look like a glowing pinwheel in space. The spiral arms convert gas and dust into new stars and planets.

Most of the Milky Way's many stars belong to its disk, which has the shape of a pancake. This pancake is 120,000 light-years across. One light-year is how far light travels in a year.

The Sun and Earth are in this disk, 27,000 light-years from the center of the galaxy. We're about halfway from the center to the edge of the disk.

The galaxy has made life possible.

Just as Earth goes around the Sun, so the Sun and the whole solar system go around the center of the galaxy. In the next hour, we will all travel half a million miles through space as the solar system speeds around the galaxy. But we don't feel this high speed because our movement through space is so smooth and steady.

And the galaxy is so big that the Sun takes a long time to go around it. The last time Earth was at our current position in the galaxy, the planet had no people at all. Instead, strange new creatures called dinosaurs had just appeared.

Dozens of smaller galaxies also go around the Milky Way. They're like moons, or satellites, going around a planet. So we call them satellite galaxies. The Milky Way holds on to its satellite galaxies through its gravity, a force that makes one mass attract another.

Elements of Life

The Milky Way's great gravity has made life possible. Life needs certain chemical elements. For example, we breathe oxygen. Our bones need calcium. Our blood needs iron.

Stars created these elements and many others. Then the stars exploded, shooting the elements into space.

Because the Milky Way is so mighty, its gravity held on to much of this material. These elements became part of new stars and planets when they formed. And here we are, living on a planet with lots of oxygen, calcium, and iron.

But when a star explodes in a small galaxy, nearly all of the oxygen, calcium, and iron shoot out of the galaxy. So a small galaxy might not have life, but a giant galaxy like ours can.

The Milky Way is not the only giant galaxy in the universe. Andromeda is even bigger and brighter. At 2.5 million (2,500,000) light-years away, it is our closest giant galaxy. It too might have life. Maybe someone there is looking at the Milky Way, wondering if we exist.

Image by NASA/JPL-Caltech/ESO/R. Hurt.

The Troll

By Gail Skroback Hennessey • Photos from Thomas Dambo

Thomas Dambo combines his love of exploring, recycling, building—and magic.

Thomas Dambo, an environmental artist in Denmark, thinks big. In 2010, he started his first large-scale project: building birdhouses. He and his crew ended up creating 4,000 of them. Now he makes giant trolls. So far, 59 trolls can be found at locations all around the world.

His creations are made entirely from items people have thrown away, such as discarded wooden pallets, old fencing, and broken sheds. It's important to him that he doesn't add to the growing landfills on our planet. He thinks of discarded items as art supplies and a source of inspiration.

Thomas recently took some time to talk about how his childhood set him on a path toward the work he does now.



Maker



Hill Top Trine, one of Thomas Dambo's trolls in Copenhagen, Denmark, offers a beautiful view from the palm of her hand. Thomas has always been a climber, and he builds all of his trolls strong enough that visitors can enjoy climbing on them too.



Little Tilde is one of six trolls created for a project called Forgotten Giants. (*Hill Top Trine* is another.) These trolls, like hidden treasures, can be found in beautiful spots on the outskirts of Copenhagen, Denmark. Thinking of the birds and squirrels seeking shelter in winter, Thomas built 28 birdhouses inside the *Little Tilde* sculpture.

Treasure Hunting

As a kid, I wanted to build all sorts of things, from a skateboard ramp to a castle or tree house in my backyard. I had lots of energy and creativity. The problem was that a kid doesn't have the money to purchase supplies. I started to bike around the neighborhood looking for discarded wood, rope, and other items that I could use to create things.

In 7th grade, a girl in my class gave me a good piece of advice. She told me I should take a different route each day to experience something new. I took her idea and learned all about my city of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Today, I still use this idea of taking different routes as I search for trash left out on curbs. Items such as wire, ropes, wooden pallets, metal, old chair rollers, and plastic containers are just waiting for me to think of a way to use them. If the items are small, I use "Tingfinder," my bicycle with a cart attached, to take home my "treasures." I use a truck for the larger items.



Thomas says that the fun part of art for him is the creation of it.

Green George is located in Christiania, Denmark. As with many of Dambo's projects, this troll was created in collaboration with local volunteers, using trash from the nearby landfill.

Endless Possibilities

When I was in school, we had a milk break. The containers had a plastic top. I realized that, every single week, 500 kids used 2,500 plastic tops! I started asking if I could have the plastic tops. What could I do with them? Make a big mosaic? A plastic snake? A large necklace? The possibilities were endless.

Look at something and think not what it is but what it could become. You can build all sorts of things from stuff that would be discarded. Be part of the solution by playing with things that don't create more trash.

A Dream Life

Trolls play an important role in Danish folklore. I used to listen to a lot of audiobooks set in the Scandinavian fairy-tale universe. I like fairy tales because you can dream yourself into a world where anything can happen.

I've always liked magic, trolls, nature, and travel. I've always liked to build big things with recycled objects. All of these interests have combined into the perfect job for me.

My advice is to think about what you really love to do and let that guide you. Keep moving in the direction you'd like to go.



Thomas's trolls can be found in Denmark, Germany, Australia, Belgium, Mexico, South Korea, China, Puerto Rico, and several states in the U.S. *Joen and the Giant Beetle*, right, is in Miami, Florida.


Mikil was created as part of a big project in Belgium called 7 Trolls and the Magical Tower. Thomas, who used to be a rapper, wrote an original fairy tale about the seven trolls. The story warns of the damage human beings are doing to the planet.


Mama Lou-Mari is in Kentucky. Thomas plans to add troll children near her in the future!



Make a Mini Troll!

Thomas Dambo made this mini troll just for you, using tools in his workshop and items from around his house—wood scraps, sticks, and old jeans. You can make a troll too!

"Remember that trolls are magical creatures that can look a million different ways," says Thomas. "Some trolls have fur, some have wings, some are brown, and some are red. It's all up to you and your imagination. Maybe use an orange peel for a hat, soda caps for eyes, and old shoelaces for hair, arms, or a little tail. I would love to see what you make!"



Send us a picture of your troll and we'll share it with Thomas!

Upload it at HighlightsKids.com
or mail to
Highlights
Your Own Pages
803 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

Be sure to ask an adult for help when using tools.

Who Loves the Cholla

Animals use this prickly plant.

By Lois Bradley



Bees visit the flowers to collect nectar and pollen. They are not the only animals who use this cactus.



Ants crawl between the spines and eat bits of the plant.

Cactus?

Many people think the big, brown deserts of the American Southwest could use a splash of color. They should see the cholla (CHOY-yah) cactus in full bloom! People love its beautiful flowers, and nectar-drinking insects visit them too. Even its sharp spines attract some animals because the barbs keep other creatures away.



People use cholla cacti too. They grow the plants in their gardens for their beauty. When a cholla dies, the wood inside makes a sturdy walking stick for people exploring desert wonders.



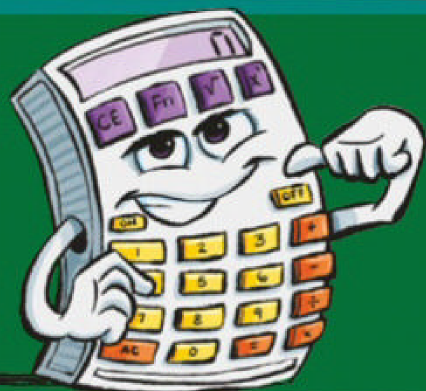


The cactus wren builds its nest on the cactus. The sharp spines protect the bird and her young from animals that might eat them.

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Each row and column has two extra objects. Use coins to cover the extra objects so that every row and column contains just one rock, one paper item, and one pair of scissors.

Answer on page 38.



A Laugh and a Half

To solve the riddle, use the fractions of the words on the right. The first one has been done for you.

What did the calculator say to the student?

"Y O _   _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _."

1. First ½ of YOGA
2. First ½ of UP
3. Last ½ of TOUCAN
4. First ½ of COAT
5. Last ½ of AMOUNT
6. First ½ of ONCE
7. Last ½ of NAME

Answer on page 38.

Paws and Think

Scuba Diving in a Coral Reef

- What do you notice about the scuba divers' gear? What is its purpose?
- What are some reasons people go on dives?
- What kinds of sea life do you see here? Why is it important that divers leave the reef unharmed?
- How is exploring the ocean different from exploring a desert? The moon? How might it be similar?
- Would you like to go scuba diving? Why or why not?

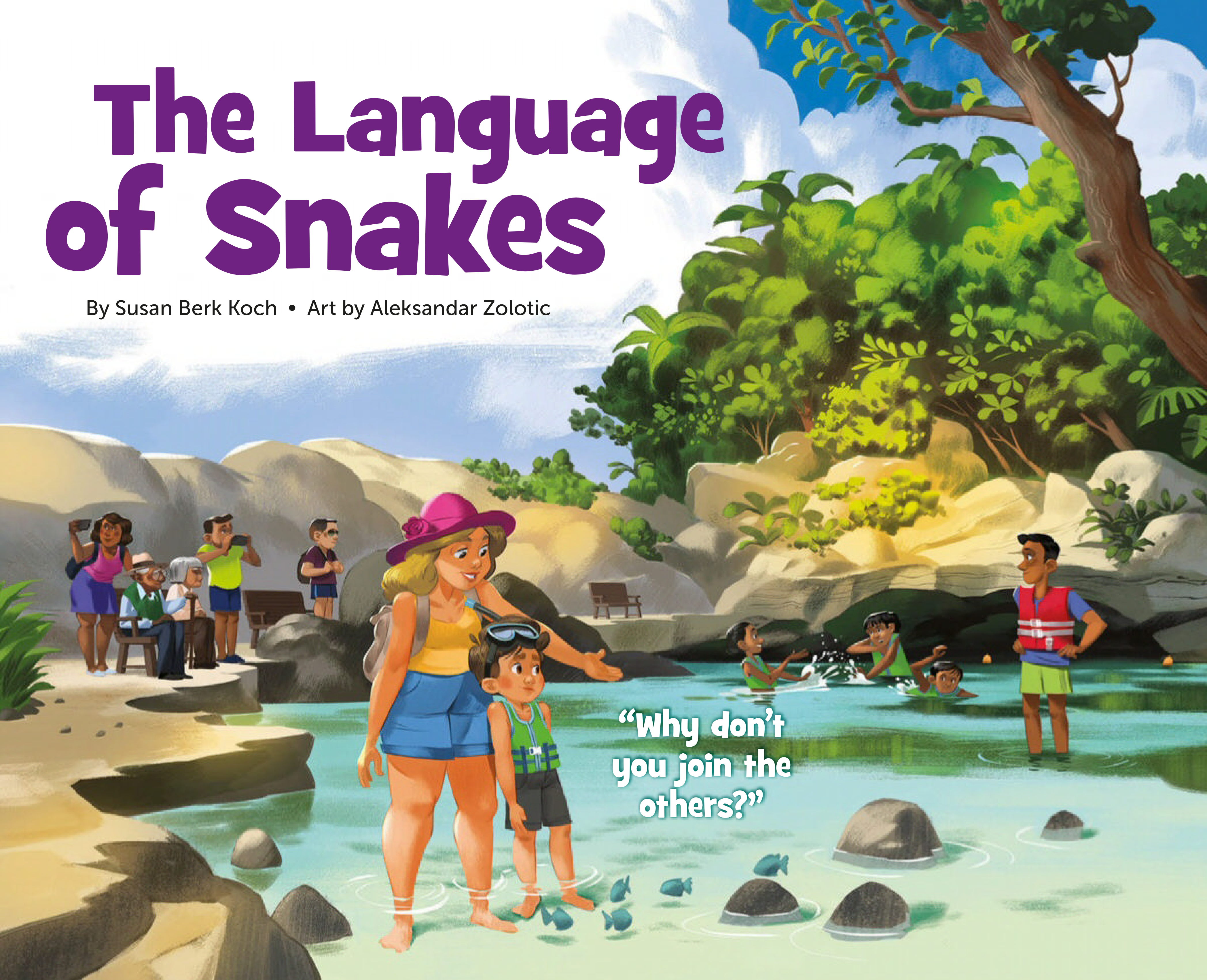
CLICK!

I'm a surface swimmer!

Art by David Coulson.

The Language of Snakes

By Susan Berk Koch • Art by Aleksandar Zolotic



The van lurched through another rut on the dirt road.

"Oof!" Josh said.

The driver smiled at Josh in the rearview mirror. "*Cinco minutos, niño*."

"Five minutes." Josh's mom smiled too. "It'll be worth the bumpy ride to swim in a *cenote*."

Josh nodded. The Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico was the best vacation place ever. And now he'd get to swim in a cenote, where, thousands of years ago, the Mayan people collected their drinking water.

But right now, Josh felt left out. He couldn't understand what the other tourists in the van, two families from Mexico City, were saying.

"*El chango grande*!" a boy Josh's age shouted.

The boy's brother and dad looked out the window. Another young boy, sitting with his parents and grandparents, chatted excitedly in Spanish.

Josh shrugged at his mom.

"*Grande* means 'big,' but I'm not sure I know what *chango* means," she said.

Josh peered out the window too. Maybe *chango* meant "snake." He'd done a research report on snakes and knew there were some big ones in Mexico. Seeing a snake in its native habitat would be cool.

Soon everyone calmed down, so Josh knew he'd missed what they'd seen.

"We've arrived," Pedro, their guide, said. "*Hemos llegado*."

The cenote resembled a large pond with a sheer rock face bordering half of it. A jungle surrounded the rest.

Pedro led everyone down a path and handed out snorkels and masks. "The Yucatán has

more than 3,000 cenotes," he said. "They come in all shapes and sizes and are interconnected by an underground river system."

As Pedro repeated the information in Spanish, Josh dipped a toe in. *Brrr.* It felt like the springtime lake water back home in Wisconsin.

Josh heard a rustling in the brush.

Josh and his mom eased into the clear water. Fish of varying sizes swam lazily among the rocks, their fins barely moving.

After a little while, Josh heard a splash. The boys from the van were jumping into an open area roped off by buoys.

"Looks fun," Josh's mom said. "Why don't you join them?"

"But I don't speak Spanish," said Josh.

"I don't think you need to," his mom said.

"Maybe not." Josh moved toward the edge and stepped out.

The sun was soon cooking his back, so Josh sat on a bench in the shade while trying to get up the courage to join the boys. Away from the water, it was quiet. Then Josh heard a rustling in the brush.

His heart beat faster. A beautiful snake, about four feet long with geometric patterns of brown and tan, slithered into a patch of sun several yards away. Its head was tapered and oval, not flat and triangular. From his report, Josh had learned that this meant it probably wasn't venomous. Still, he knew to keep his distance. He got up, took several steps backward, then turned and ran. "Snake!"

Looking excited, the other boys climbed out of the water and raced toward Josh.

The smallest boy reached him first. He pointed at a green lizard clinging to the bench. "Snake?" he asked.

Josh shook his head. "Lizard."

The boy nodded. "*Lagarto*."

How could he let them know what he saw? Josh thought quickly. He wiggled in what he thought was a snaky motion and said, "Snake."

"Ohhh," the boys said. "*Serpiente*."

"Serpiente," Josh repeated. They all laughed when one of the boys flicked his tongue to imitate a snake.

Pedro came over, and the boys spoke to him. The only word Josh made out was *serpiente*.

Josh pointed to where he'd seen the snake. Staying behind Pedro, they moved forward. The snake was no longer in the patch of sun. Josh hoped the vibrations from their footsteps hadn't scared it away.

Pedro tiptoed ahead, then motioned. Pointing toward the snake on a rock, he said, "Boa."

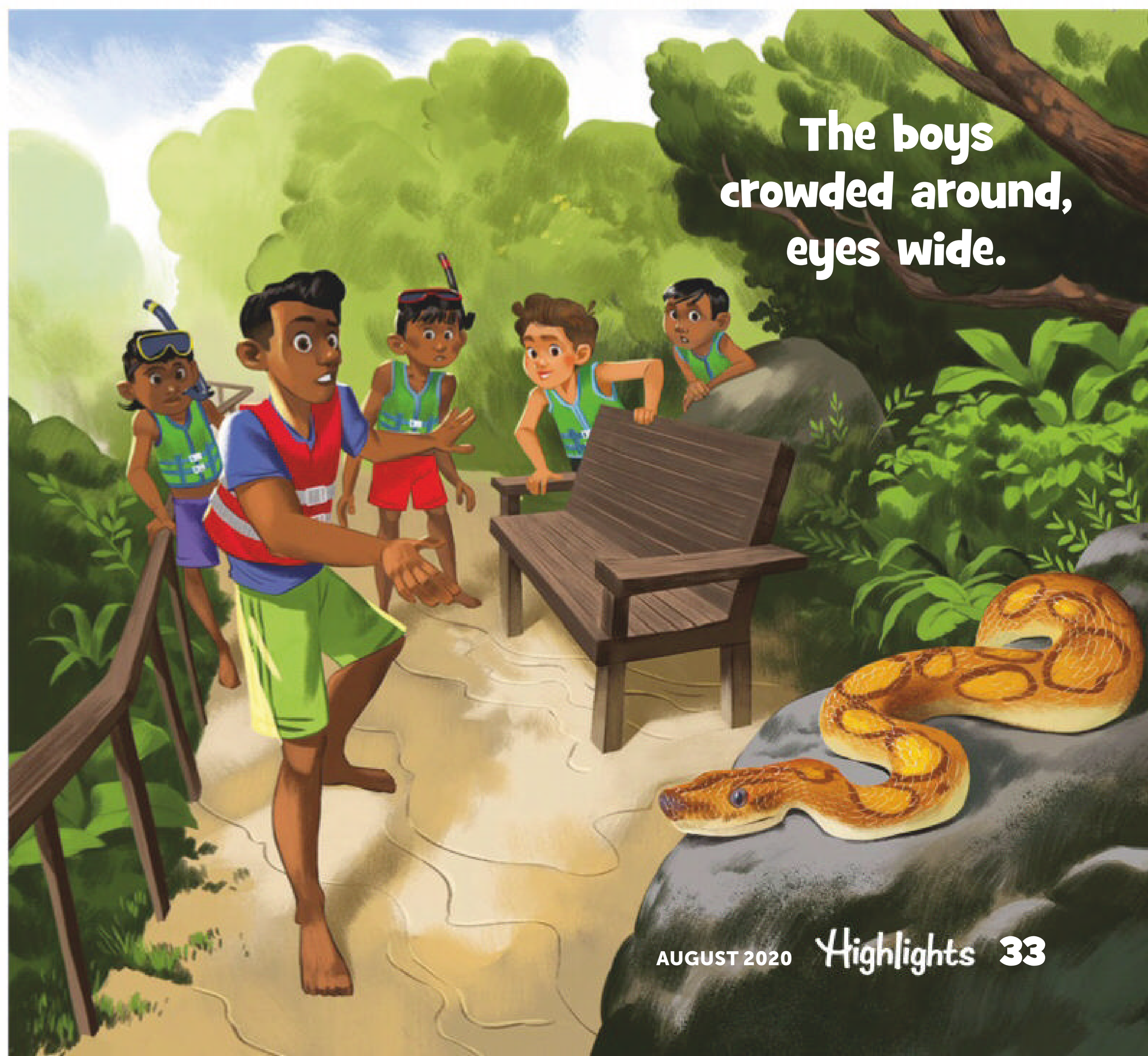
The boys inched closer. Pedro wouldn't let anyone go past him, but the boys crowded around, eyes wide. They watched until the snake slid beneath some fallen branches and disappeared.

The boys grinned at Josh.

Josh grinned back. Then he remembered the word from earlier. "So what does *chango grande* mean?"

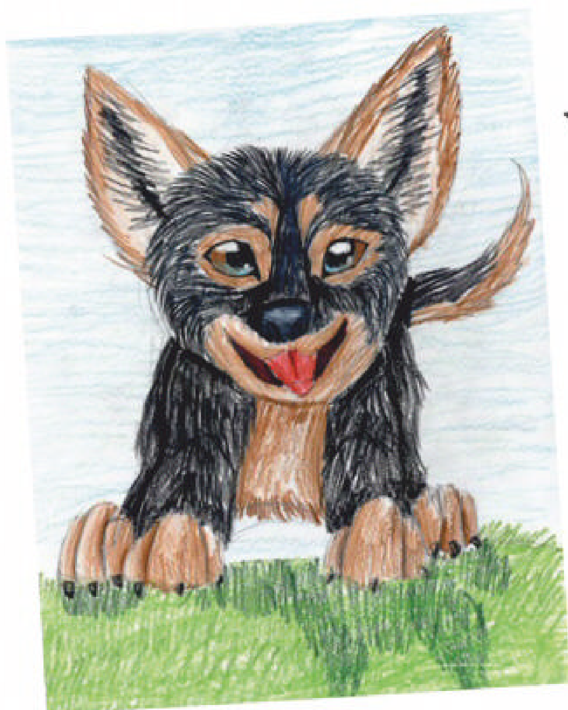
The littlest boy scratched under his arms and made noises like a monkey.

Laughing, Josh and the boys ran toward the swimming area together.



Your Own Pages



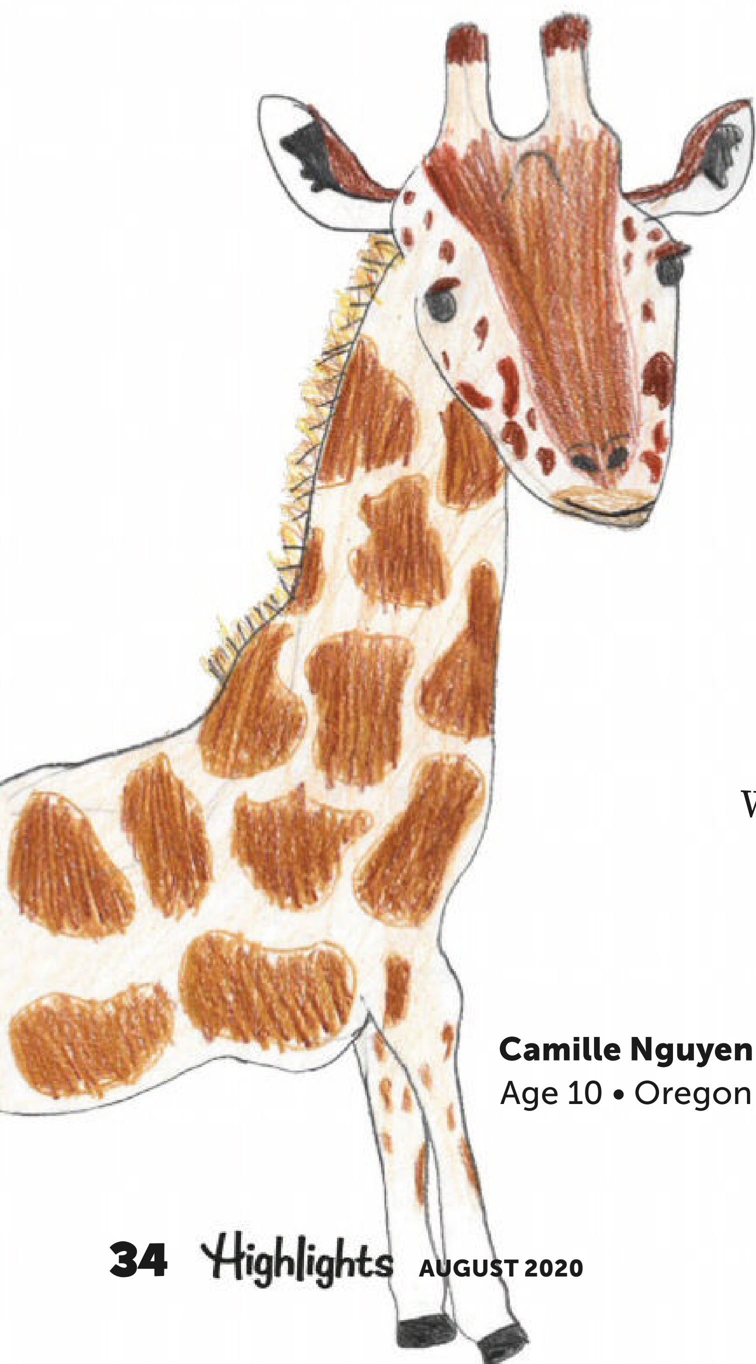


Sindhuja Nifadkar
Age 8 • Georgia

Dinosaur Spinosaur
Joseph Ruffino V
Age 6 • Florida



Jim
Esme Homenchuk
Age 11 • Michigan



Camille Nguyen
Age 10 • Oregon

Whittier, My Lego City

Oh Whittier, oh Whittier,
such a grand little city.
Oh Whittier, oh Whittier,
it is so pretty!
Buildings, capitols,
and houses too.
No matter where I am,
such a great view.
With Legos and blocks I created you,
with a subway, an airport,
and even a zoo.
There are parks to watch
my favorite teams.
I will go there one day,
if only in my dreams!

Caleb Weber
Age 6 • Texas

Glass Frog

Looks like glass
Hard to grasp
Green legs
Lays squishy eggs
See-through
Doesn't have a clue
He grew!

Devon Jameson
Age 8 • North Carolina

Roller-Coaster Ride

Whoosh!
Gums are flapping, on the track.
Feeling nauseated, no going back.
Screaming, shouting,
Throat going hoarse,
Twisting, flipping,
Winding course.
Stomach clogged within my throat,
Flips and corkscrews, knotted moat.
Crying, weeping, my hands are in.
At the end,
"Can we go again?"

Ellie Stadler
Age 11 • Tennessee



Anna Friel
Age 8 • Rhode Island

Bailey Przychodniecz
Age 10 • Florida





Playing in the sun
Ocean on my feet
Pedaling my bike
Swimming in the pool
Ice cream, yum
Children laughing
Lazy days
End of school!

Lily Atchison
Age 7 • California



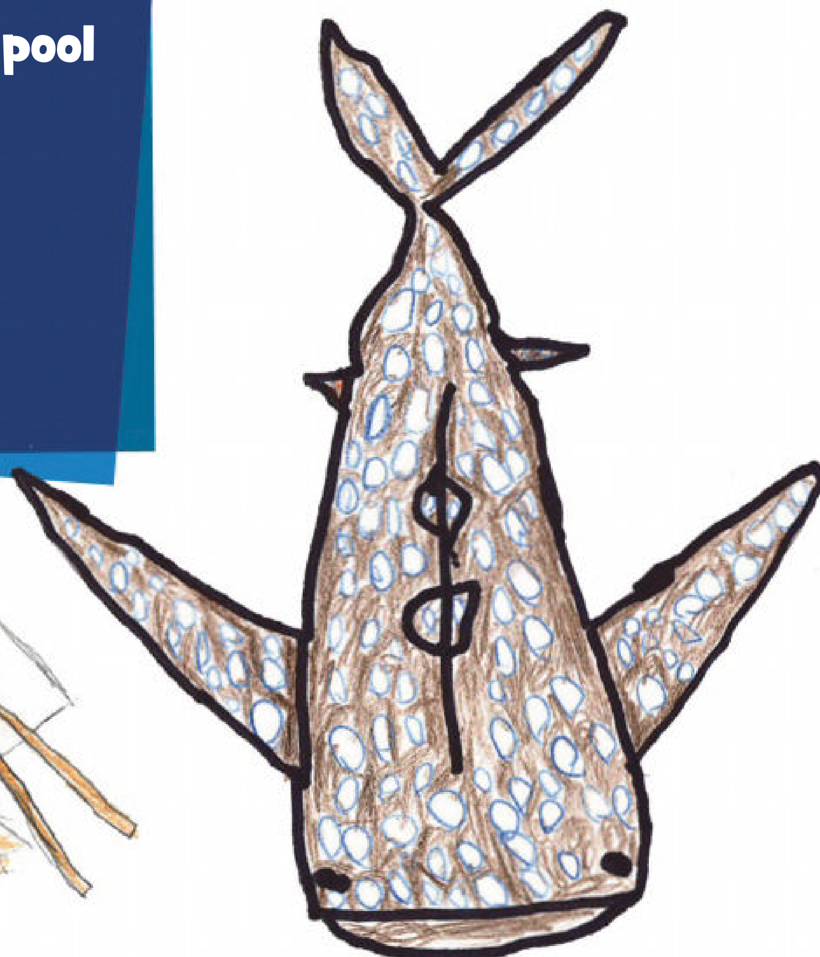
Sleeping Sushi

Nathan Kim
Age 9 • New York

The Earth

Waves crash
Potatoes mash
Rockets roar
People snore
Butterflies flap
Fingers snap
Jump ropes whack
Pools splatter
Rain patters

Adam Gurule
Age 6 • California



Top View of a Whale Shark

Josiah Nelson
Age 8 • Minnesota

I Love Playing

Dance
cheerfully!
Sing
gleefully!
Play with toys
happily!
Run outside
playfully!
Oh, I love playing!

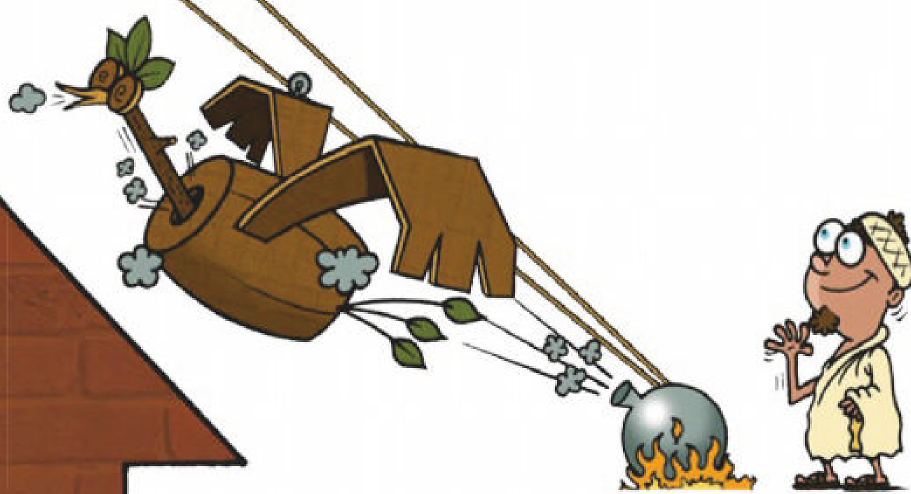
Noelle Sapp
Age 8 • New Jersey

Share Your Creative Work

We'd love to see it!
Art must be on unlined paper.
Poems must have fewer than 75 words. All submissions must be created by you.

Include your name, age, and address. Mail to
Highlights
Your Own Pages
803 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

We cannot return your work, so you might want to keep a copy.



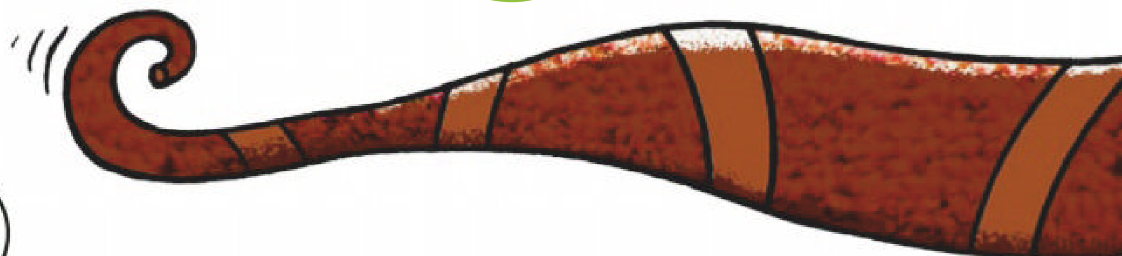
An Ancient Robo-Bird

You may think of robots as modern inventions, but the first known automaton may have been built around 350 B.C. The Greek mathematician Archytas built a wooden dove that appeared to fly. Historians think the bird was powered by air or steam and a pulley system.

Weird History

By Allison Kane • Art by Gary Boller

These stories from the past are strange but true!



No Snooze Button

In the 1800s and early 1900s, workers in England hired human alarm clocks. During the Industrial Age, many people worked in mines or factories and had to wake up at certain times for their shifts. Because alarm clocks were a new and expensive invention, people were paid to walk through the streets and wake up their customers. They mostly used wooden rods to tap on bedroom windows, but some used peashooters.





Football Fusion

In 1943, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Pittsburgh Steelers combined teams for one season. At that time, many professional football players had joined the armed forces for World War II. The only players left were those who were unable to fight in the war or who came out of retirement to help fill out a team. Although the two teams' coaches did not get along very well, the team that became known as the "Steagles" finished the season with a winning record.

Fancy Feet

In the 14th and 15th centuries, fashionable European men wore long-toed shoes called crakows or poulaines. The shoes' pointed tips extended as long as five inches beyond the toe! King Edward IV of England found the shoes so absurd that he eventually outlawed shoe tips that were more than two inches beyond the toe.

Candy Confusion



In 1950, during the Korean War, thousands of troops were stationed in an area now known as the Chosin Reservoir. Having run out of ammunition, the troops put in a call for more "Tootsie Rolls," which was the code name they used for mortar shells. But the radio operator didn't have a code sheet in front of him. Pallets of actual Tootsie Roll candies were parachuted urgently to the troops. In addition to eating them, they found good use for them. When warmed, the candies could be used like putty to plug bullet holes in vehicles and other equipment. They formed a seal once they froze in the cold weather.

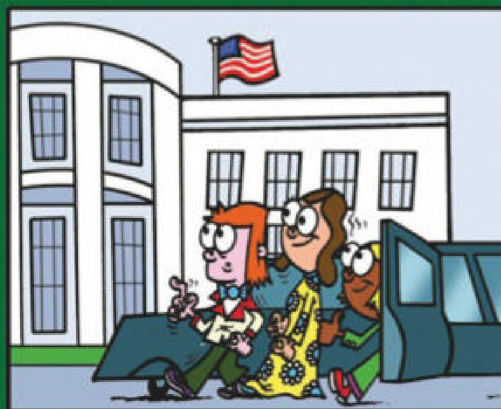
Wacky White House Stories



James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison loved ice cream. The Madisons served all kinds of popular flavors—including oyster—to White House guests.



Woodrow Wilson kept a flock of 48 sheep on the White House lawns. He raised money for the Red Cross by auctioning off their wool.

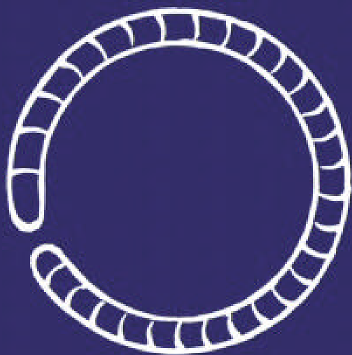


Susan Ford, daughter of President Gerald Ford, held her class's senior prom in the White House.

What Is It? By Joe Seidita

Can you guess what each doodle puzzle shows?

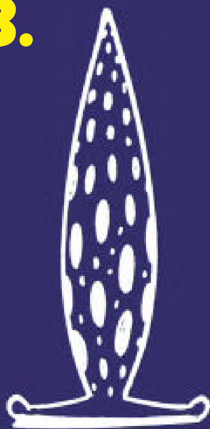
1.



2.



3.



Answers below.

Answers

page 2

Fun This Month
Ice-Pop Puzzler



Mystery Photo—
Tent.



page 15

Fruit Figures
Pear = 5, Lemon = 10,
Apple = 3, Orange = 7.
Bonus! 25.

page 30

Rock, Paper, Scissors



A Laugh and a Half
"YOU CAN COUNT ON ME."

page 38

What Is It?

1. A worm doing a somersault.
2. A finished lollipop.
3. A slug doing a handstand.

page 43

Picture Puzzler



Covers: Dive In! by Howard McWilliam; What's Wrong? by Chuck Dillon

Illustration credits: Page 2: Kevin Zimmer; 13: Ana Duna; 15: Jokes by Rich Powell, Fruit Figures by Scott Soeder; 30: Rock, Paper, Scissors by Shaw Nielsen, A Laugh and a Half by Scott Soeder; 39: Erin Mauterer, except doodles by iStock/Getty Images Plus/ikopylov. *Photo credits:* Page 2: (tent) E+/Getty Images/evemilla, (unicorn) iStock/Getty Images Plus/CoreyFord, (dragon) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Vac1, (mustard) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Michael Burrell; 3: Gina Lenz; 4: (lighthouse) iStock/Getty Images Plus/koya79; 4–5: photo from Thomas Dambo; 11: (top left) Tony Gutierrez/AP/Shutterstock, (top right) Ronald Wittek/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock, (bottom) dpa picture alliance/Alamy Stock Photo; 12–13: iStock/Getty Images Plus/MMarieB and iStock/Getty Images Plus/EAGiven; 28–29: (background) Bill Gorum/Alamy Stock Photo; 28: (insets) Lois Bradley; 29: (left inset) Ike Watts/Alamy Stock Photo, (center inset) Nature Photographers Ltd/Alamy Stock Photo, (right inset) B Christopher/Alamy Stock Photo; 39: (iguana) iStock/Getty Images Plus/amwu, (coins) iStock/Getty Images Plus/eldadcarin, (food) iStock/Getty Images Plus/nitrub, (piggy bank) iStock/Getty Images Plus/SergeyChayko, (family portrait) DigitalVision/Getty Images/Rebecca Handler, (frame) iStock/Getty Images Plus/thomaslenne, (dog) iStock/Getty Images Plus/GlobalP.

RIDDLES

1 What do you call a dinosaur that snores?
Cayla Fronczek, Arizona

2 What room do ghosts avoid?
Nate Downey, California

3 What is a star's favorite key on a keyboard?
Lily Cowart, Texas



4 What did the fast tomato say to the slow tomato?
Stewart Carter, Pennsylvania

5 What do you call a fake noodle?
Isla Hyjurick, Pennsylvania

6 What do you call a pile of kittens?
Aleah Vanallen, Tennessee

7 What is black, white, and read all over?
Albel Nowell, Mississippi

8 What is a cat's favorite color?
Jane Welch, Missouri

1. A *Snore-a-saurus.* **2.** The living room. **3.** The space bar. **4.** "Ketchup!" **5.** An im-pasta. **6.** A *meow-tain.* **7.** A newspaper. **8.** *Purr-ple.*

Brain Play

START
Take your brain on a hike!

What is your favorite reptile? WHY?

Can you tell coins apart by how they feel?

How might restaurants choose what to serve?

How do you help out at home?

When you've saved up some money, how do you decide what to do with it?

If families dressed in uniforms, what might your family's look like?

Yay for today!

TODAY
August
3

What can you celebrate about this day?

How would school be different if it were held in a museum?

What embarrassing thing you once did can you laugh about now?

WHAT EVER
#1

Where is your favorite place to put stickers? Why?

Do the looks of an animal affect how people treat it?

THE END



Ask Arizona

I have the funniest friend ever, but sometimes her jokes are mean and hurt people's feelings. Should I stop being her friend or just keep laughing it off?

—Figuring It Out in Florida

Just Joking Around

By Lissa Rovetch
Art by Amanda Morley

Dear Figuring It Out,

I recently had that very same, very confusing question at camp. It began at lunch when this kid named Chase and I randomly started telling corny food jokes.

"You know what cows put on their hot dogs?" Chase said. "Moooooostard!"

"That was bad!" I laughed. "You know what kind of fish you put on a peanut-butter sandwich? A jellyfish!"

"Wow, that was even worse." Chase laughed back. "You know why the bread dough was sad? It just wanted to be kneaded!"

Later on, when we were all heading to the lake, Chase ran up to me and said, "Hey! Imagine you're on the lake in a boat, OK?"

"OK," I said.

"Now imagine a big wave comes and tips your boat over," he went on.

"OK," I said again.

"Now imagine a big, hungry shark is coming to get you," he said. "What do you do?"

"Um, get eaten?" I answered.

"Nope." He smiled. "Stop imagining!"

I giggled. "I have to say, that one wasn't terrible."

Joking and laughing with Chase was turning out to be one of my favorite parts of camp. But a couple of days later, in arts and crafts, his joking around got kind of confusing.

"Hey," he said, "did you forget your eyeglasses today?"

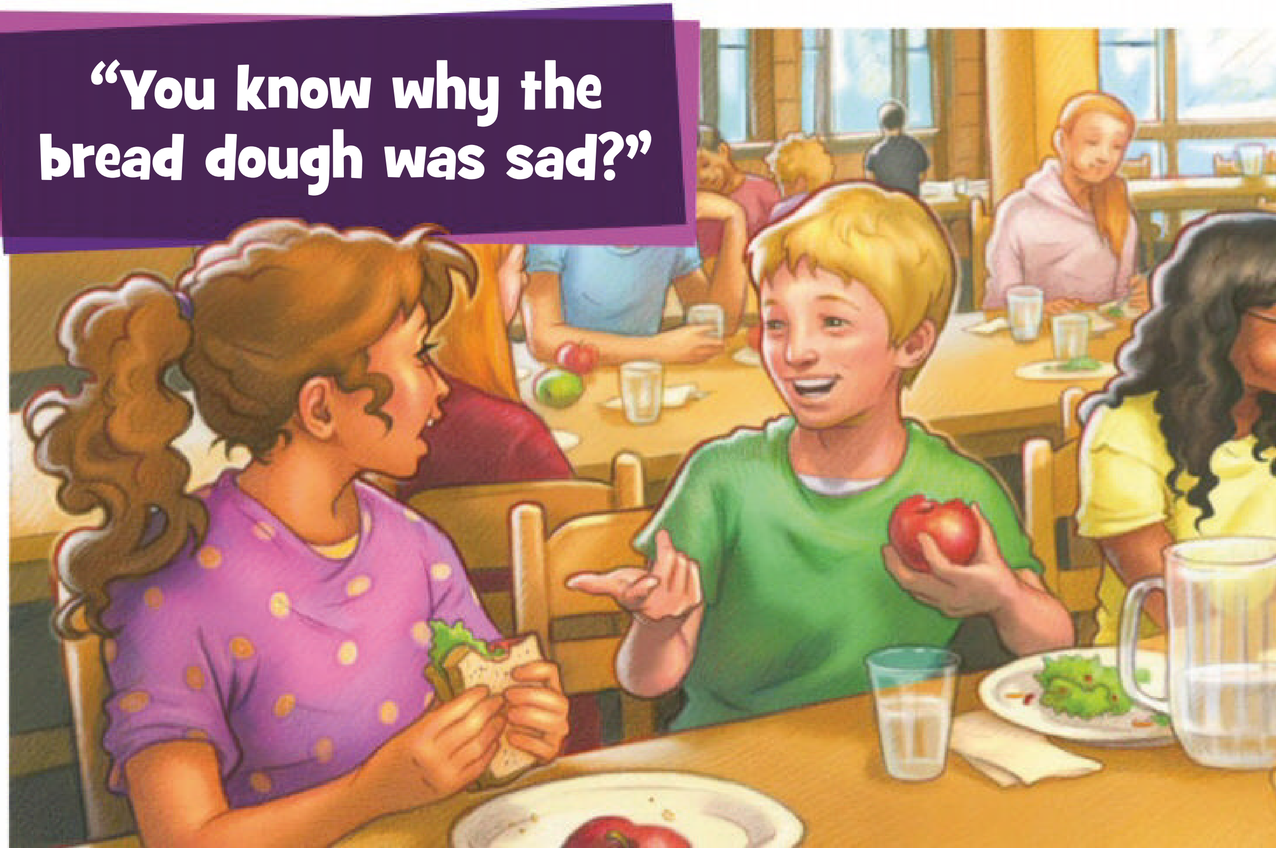
I shook my head. "I don't wear glasses."

"I just figured you couldn't see very well." He snickered. "The friendship bracelet you're making looks so ugly, you should call it an enemy bracelet. Get it?"

Joking with Chase was one of my favorite parts of camp.

"Oh, ha! Yeah," I said in a confused, not-exactly-laughing kind of way. But before I had a chance to stop and think about

"You know why the bread dough was sad?"



how those words actually made me feel, it was time to move on to the next activity.

"Laughing *with* people is way more fun than laughing *at* them."

That night, when it was lights-out time, I lay awake, feeling grumpy and weird. Half of my brain was thinking, *Chase was just joking around; don't take it so hard.* But the other half of my brain was thinking, *Those bracelet comments felt more mean than fun.* I knew that truly funny things shouldn't make my stomach hurt.

The next day, Chase made another one of his "jokes" on the field. "Amelia must think we're playing golf instead of softball." He paused and smiled. "Because every time she tries to hit the ball, it just rolls on the ground! Get it?"

"Um, I get it," I said. "I just don't think it's funny."

"What happened to your sense of humor?" he asked.



"Can we talk for a second?"

"To be honest, I've been thinking about this kind of a lot," I said. "Can we talk for a second?" I glanced around to make sure no one else was within earshot.

"Sure, I guess," he said.

"We might have different ideas of what's funny," I said. "I love our corny jokes, but I didn't think your 'enemy bracelet' comment was funny, and I definitely don't like joking about Amelia behind her back. Basically, I think laughing *with* people is way more fun than laughing *at* them. Does that make sense?"

Luckily, Chase was cool about the whole thing. "You know," he said, "I seriously never thought about it like that."

We ended up trading lots more jokes over the next few days and even decided to do our favorites in the talent show. Then, believe it or not, we were voted the funniest skit overall!

So, dear Figuring It Out, it might be worth telling your friend how you feel. Maybe try explaining that you think she's talented and funny but the negative stuff doesn't make you feel great. Hopefully, she'll hear you and adjust her style. If not, remember that there are plenty of fun, un-mean fish in the friendship sea.

Ciao for now,

Arizona

Dear Highlights



I have a habit of brushing my teeth too long. Sometimes it's hard to stop.

A *Highlights* Reader (by e-mail)

The American Dental Association recommends brushing your teeth twice a day, for two minutes each time. Try setting a timer for two minutes. Keep an eye on it. Brush your upper teeth for one minute and your lower teeth for one minute, then stop and rinse. Eventually, as you learn what two minutes of brushing feels like, you may not need the timer anymore.

Your parents and dentist may have ideas for you too. If you have more questions about keeping your teeth healthy, your dentist will be able to answer them.



I have a hard time being patient for something that I'm really looking forward to.

Graham (by e-mail)

It can be hard to be patient when you know that something good lies ahead.

It might be fun to make a countdown calendar. You can cross off days on a monthly calendar. Or you can make a calendar with a page for each day until your event. As each day passes, tear off the page. This might make it feel as if the event is coming sooner. Decorate the calendar by drawing whatever you're looking forward to.

Before the event, fill your days with activities with your family and friends. Keeping busy while you wait for something special may help the days seem to go by faster.



I'm going to Greece next year. But I don't know how to speak Greek!

Cleo, Nebraska

What an exciting adventure you have ahead of you. Greece is a beautiful country, with lots of history, culture, and natural beauty to enjoy.

In most big cities in Greece, you'll find that many people speak at least some English. But this trip gives you a great opportunity to learn a few Greek phrases before you leave.

You can ask a librarian to help you find Greek phrase books, audio materials, and tour books. They'll help you learn about the language you'll be hearing and the places you'll be visiting. Look up important words like "please" and "thank you" and useful questions like "How are you?" and "Do you speak English?" Being prepared with a few words and phrases may help you feel more confident about your trip.

Write to us!
Please include your name, age, and full address. Mail to
Dear Highlights
803 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
Or e-mail us at Letters@Highlights.com.

Art by Keith Frawley.

Picture Puzzler

Art by Valentina Mendicino

Find one trio of identical llamas, four pairs of identical llamas, and one llama with no match.



Answers on page 38.

BONUS!

Say this tongue twister five times fast:
Mama Llama's pajama drama.